

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A thin-film coated toner comprising:

a powder toner, with a softening temperature ranging from 50 to 150°C; and

a surface of the powder toner coated substantially continuously with ~~the~~ a thin film comprising a urea-base thermosetting resin, wherein an average film thickness of the thin film is 0.005 to 1µm and said powder toner is a ground toner;

(i) wherein the urea-base resin is formed by resinifying a urea-base resin precursor mixture which consists essentially of at least either one of a urea and a urea derivative and at least either one of a formaldehyde and formaldehyde derivative on the surface of the powder toner, while avoiding fusing the powder toner, and

(ii) wherein the toner is defined by a true sphericity (DSF) according to the following formula I of 0.85 or more;

$$\text{DSF} = m/M \quad \text{I}$$

wherein m represents a minimum diameter of a projection drawing of the toner and M represents a maximum diameter of the projection drawing of the same.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)